

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-2 (cancelled).

3 (currently amended). ~~The computing device of claim 2~~ A computing device having a computer-readable medium including computer-executable instructions for performing acts comprising:

validating a server;

deriving an identifier associated with said computing device;

uploading said identifier to said server;

receiving a secure repository from said server; and

authenticating said secure repository,

wherein said computer-readable medium further includes computer-executable instructions for performing the acts of:

installing said secure repository; and

receiving one or more activation certificates adapted for use with said secure repository,

wherein said one or more activation certificates includes:

a first activation certificate in an encrypted form; and

a second activation certificate in an unencrypted form.

4-16 (cancelled).

17 (currently amended). ~~The computing device of claim 16~~ A method of activating software installed on a computing device, said method comprising the acts of:

validating a server;

deriving an identifier associated with said computing device;

uploading said identifier to said server;

receiving a secure repository from said server; and

authenticating said secure repository,

further comprising the acts of:

installing said secure repository; and
receiving one or more activation certificates adapted for use with said secure repository,

wherein said one or more activation certificates includes:

a first activation certificate in an encrypted form; and
a second activation certificate in an unencrypted form.

18-39 (cancelled).

40 (currently amended). ~~The method of claim 38~~ A method of enabling the use of content items in a multi-level distribution architecture, said method comprising the acts of:

rendering a first set of content items without regard to whether a first status is activated or non-activated; and

rendering a second set of content items only if said first status is activated,
further comprising the act of obtaining an activation certificate, wherein said second set of content items are encrypted,
wherein said activation certificate contains a first public/private key pair, and wherein said second set of content items are decryptable only in the presence of said activation certificate,
further comprising the act of downloading a secure repository having associated therewith a second public/private key pair,
wherein said first key is encrypted with the public key of said first public/private key pair,
and wherein said activation certificate contains the private key of said first public/private key pair in a form encrypted by the public key of said second public/private key pair.

41-48 (cancelled).